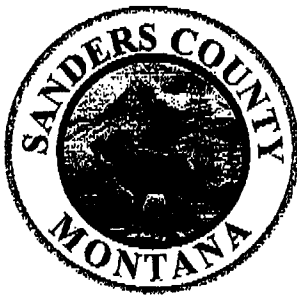


Date 1-31-2011
Bill SB 117



SANDERS COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 31, 2011

Senate Local Government
Vice Chair Lynda Moss
Fax (406) 444-4433

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to go on record as strongly opposing SB 117 which would require coordination between local governments, school districts, special districts and the federal government.

The process of coordination is an unfunded mandate, and if passed and signed into law, will negatively impact counties, school districts, cities and towns within the state of Montana. Part of that negative impact will arise due to the unintended and unbudgeted expenses incurred from litigation arising from the process of coordination. Financially, Sanders County, like most other governing bodies in Montana, is facing extremely tight income resources. Expending those resources on litigation rather than necessary public services such as roads, emergency services and other basic needs, does not make sense. If passed, SB 117 will cost thousands of dollars and create a steady stream of litigation that we do not have time for nor can we afford. It also will not help to stop the lawsuits and appeals that are so prevalent today.

If coordination is such an effective tool, why doesn't the State of Montana coordinate with the federal government on wolves? Why try to push coordination onto everyone else if you won't do it yourself? This "process" will simply do nothing but create more bureaucratic red tape.

We already have a good working relationship with our two national forests: Lolo National Forest and Kootenai National Forest. We meet with the District Rangers on a regular basis and keep each other updated and work through any issues that may arise. We have asked the bill's sponsor as well as a local proponent to present this board with just one example of where coordination has reopened the forests for lumber production. They have still not provided a single example.

Individual counties should be able to retain the element of local control without this legislation force fed to us from far right groups who have an agenda. Please vote NO on SB 117.

Sincerely,

Board of Commissioners
Sanders County, Montana

Carol Brooker

Carol Brooker, Chairman

Anthony B. Cox

Anthony B. Cox, Commissioner

Glen E. Magera

Glen E. Magera, Commissioner

Carol Turk

Carol Turk

Treasurer-Superintendent of Schools

Jennine M. Robbins

Jennine M. Robbins

Clerk & Recorder-Assessor-Surveyor

Cc: Representative Pat Ingraham